

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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# THE LIBRARY



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Volume I - Sept. 1930*  
*Number I - 1930*

# The Library Tower



Volume I      Sept. 1930      Number I

Mr John Ridington  
with the writer's compliments  
*John Barr*  
16:V:1933

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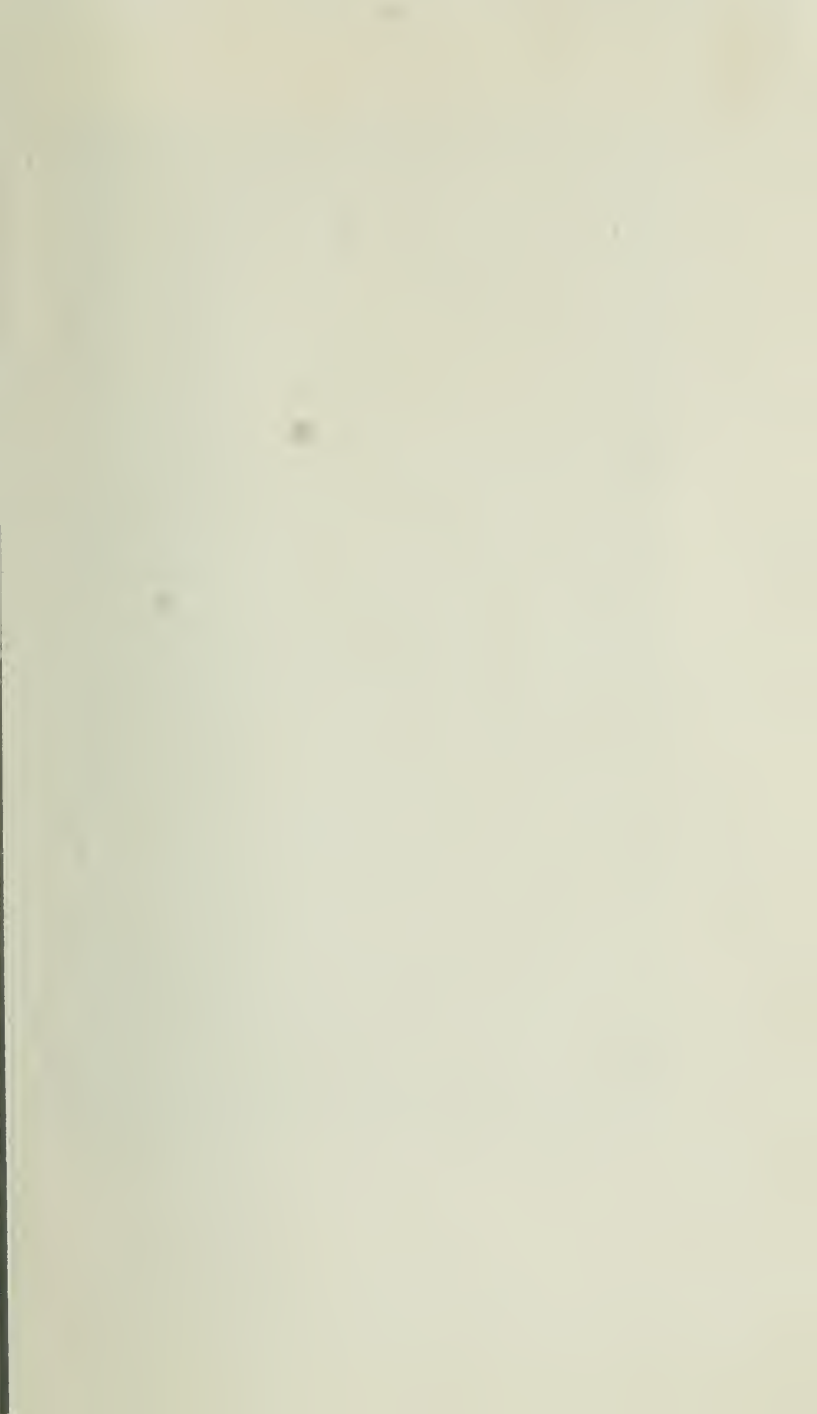
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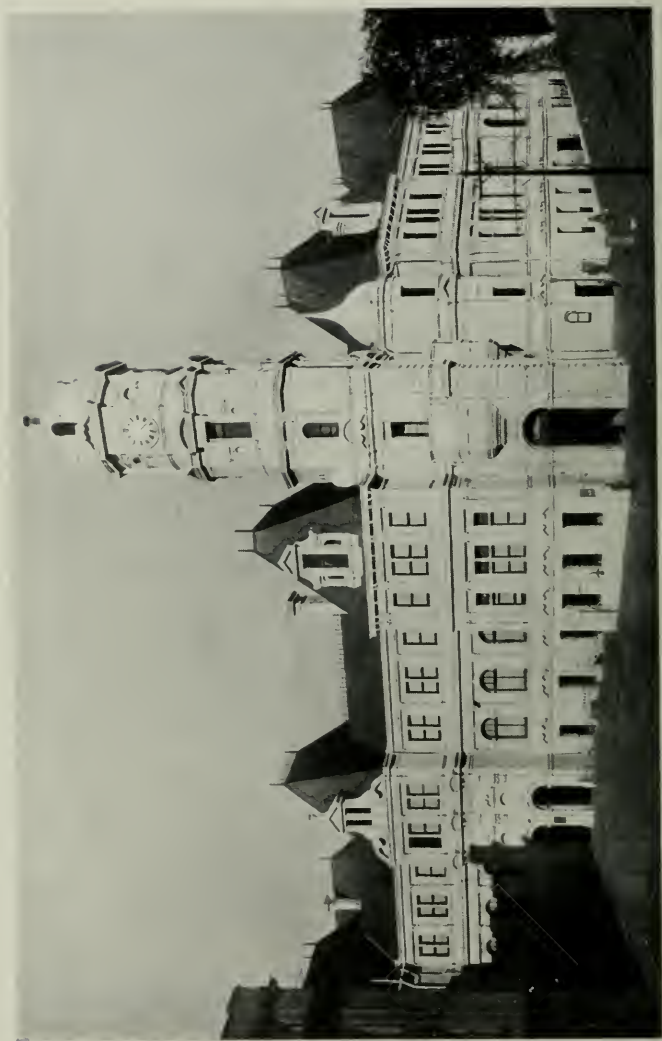
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*Auckland Public Library, Art Gallery and Old Colonists' Museum*



# THE LIBRARY TOWER

BULLETIN OF THE  
AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
NEW ZEALAND

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Vol. I

SEPTEMBER 1930

No. 1

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## FOREWORD

THE LIBRARY TOWER is inaugurated for the purpose of providing information about the various libraries and their activities, and especially to supply readers and borrowers with a handy list of the books added to the stocks of the Central and branch libraries. These are intended to be the main features of the Bulletin, but in addition it is proposed to publish from time to time articles which, it is hoped, will assist readers to make the fullest possible use of the resources of the libraries.

None of the features indicated above appears in this issue, the publication of which coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Auckland Public Library. The Library Committee considered that the occasion demanded special recognition, and it was decided to devote this number entirely to an historical account of the foundation and



*development of Auckland's public library system, which has grown in a comparatively short time to be one of considerable importance.*

*With the second issue, which will be published early next year, it is intended to make a commencement with the features that should make the Bulletin a useful guide to readers, and the Committee hopes that this undertaking, inaugurated on such an important occasion, will prove itself a means of making more widely known the resources and facilities which the libraries can offer to all citizens.*



# AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

1880-1930

By JOHN BARR, *Chief Librarian*

AUCKLAND in 1880, the year of the opening of the Auckland Public Library, was a very different place to the city of 1930. Queen Street was then, as now, the principal thoroughfare, but it bore small resemblance to the street as we know it to-day. At that time there were few, if any, buildings over two storeys in height. The animation of to-day was of course lacking, no trams, not even horse-drawn trams having been brought into use; and a night scene of those days would contrast dismally with the brilliantly illuminated sight of these times. Fifty years ago the sites of the present Post Office and Railway Station were in process of being reclaimed.

The waterfront itself had not changed greatly during the forty years that the City had been in being. A small amount of reclamation east and west of Queen Street had been carried out, but Point Britomart still stood as a landmark, although it was in course of demolition. Its removal had been decided upon so that the railway could be brought to the present terminus. And now with the lapse of time we find the new station, which will be opened

shortly, moved back to practically the original location! At that time the railways of the Province were an inconsiderable affair, only about one hundred miles of track having been completed. West of Queen Street stood the Auckland Graving Dock which had only been completed in 1878, but Callopie Dock had not even been started.

How immature Auckland was in those days may be gauged from the fact that the population of the City and suburbs did not exceed twenty-seven thousand inhabitants, and that the Auckland City Council and the Auckland Harbour Board, the two principal local corporations, had only been in existence for about a decade. Needless to say there were few of the civic amenities which we enjoy to-day. There was then no Town Hall, a rented office over Messrs. Upton and Co.'s book shop in Queen Street being sufficient for the City Council's requirements at that time. The City's parks consisted of Albert Park and Western Park, neither of them much more than parks in name, and certainly not to be compared with the cultivated beauty which they now possess. Water supply was then a serious problem compared with which to-day's worries are nothing. Up till 1877 the City's only source of water derived from the small lake in the Domain, and during droughts water was sold in the streets by hawkers.

Educational affairs had just been placed on a satisfactory basis, "The Education Act, 1877" being the means to that end. By this Act the education of children was placed on a stable basis, from which it has developed to its present position. Secondary education was making steady progress after a decade of



*Queen Street in the early 'eighties*



*Queen Street to-day*



*Auckland Public Library, 1880 (formerly the Mechanics Institute). Inset: E. Shillington, First Librarian*

effort, and, in 1880, the Grammar School building in Symonds Street was opened. But there was yet no University College. Its history began three years later in insignificant quarters in Eden Street, hardly comparable with the palatial building it occupies to-day. And in the same way one may hark back in imagination to the old Museum building in Princes Street and then gaze at the War Memorial Museum which crowns the highest point of the Domain.

The years from the establishment of the City of Auckland on virgin soil, in 1840, to the end of the 'seventies, had been a strenuous pioneering period, including a serious conflict with the native race, but despite all the difficulties it had experienced the young community had risen superior to them, and in the succeeding years it was to reap the benefits which a well laid foundation insures. It is proposed to relate here in detail the growth of one such institution—the Auckland Public Library.

The Auckland Public Library came into being as the result of difficulties encountered by the Mechanics Institute, which was established in 1842, and had filled a most important community service during its career of nearly thirty-eight years, supplying as it did literary recreation to its members and classes of instruction for the community, when such were practically unobtainable elsewhere, and providing a meeting place for citizens when no other existed in the city. In that old hall many important public meetings were held, and a large number of the flourishing institutions and societies of to-day were conceived and born there. The Institute's record of service is a worthy one and its promoters

deserve our esteem, for it did a great deal to stimulate interest among the youth of the community and to provide them with opportunities for self-improvement. In its time it was the intellectual centre of the city. It organized series of lectures by the best lecturers available, as well as classes of instruction, which were well attended. Among the subjects taught were arithmetic, mathematics, architectural and mechanical drawing, and there was a class for the study of Maori. An exhibition of fine and useful arts was another undertaking of importance which the Institute was responsible for.

The difficulties which faced the Committee of the Mechanics Institute and led to its extinction were financial. In the Town Clerk's Report, 1879, Mr. P. A. Philips stated that "Requests for pecuniary assistance having been made during the year by the Committee of the Mechanics Institute, which the Council were unable to comply with, an offer was made to transfer the site, building, library, etc., to the Council. The Council resolved to accept the same subject to the ratepayers endorsing their action by a poll taken for bringing into operation the 'Public Libraries Acts,' and assent was made by a majority of 637 votes; 728 being recorded . . . A short Act of Parliament for conveying the same, together with the valuable library at one time possessed by the Provincial Council, is now before Parliament." This Act was duly passed, and in the following year (1880) "the first public free library under the Free Libraries Act" was "opened on 7th September last with great éclat, and a very successful conversazione (given by His Worship the Mayor, Thos.



Peacock, Esq.) inaugurated this important and valuable acquisition to our public institutions." "The poll," the report continues, "for a small library rate was almost unanimously in the affirmative."

The conversazione which was held to celebrate the opening of the Library certainly deserved the description given to it by the Town Clerk. Invitations, limited on account of the number which the Assembly Hall of the Library could accommodate, were issued, and were accepted by two hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen. The principal speakers were the Mayor, Sir G. Maurice O'Rorke, Speaker of the General Assembly, Dr. Wallis, M.H.R., and the Rev. D. Bruce. The love of books and the value of libraries were the themes of all the speeches, and much wisdom was dispensed that night. In the course of Sir Maurice O'Rorke's address he remarked: "It may be said by some persons that by establishing a permanent impost for the maintenance of a library you shut out the voluntary contributor. I do not apprehend such a result. I think that the system in time will wake . . . that spirit of benefaction which is so characteristic of our race." And so in the somewhat dilapidated but picturesque old building which stood in Chancery Street (now Court House Lane) overlooking High Street, the Auckland Public Library commenced its career of usefulness. And the high hopes which Sir Maurice O'Rorke gave voice to were to be realized in an incredibly short time, and in a manner the most optimistic could scarcely have anticipated.

The stock of the Library when opened numbered about six thousand volumes, including the books



transferred from the Provincial Council. Comprised in the latter collection were some splendid editions of standard works in general literature and history, but its most valuable portion was the sets of official publications relating to New Zealand from the earliest days, which formed the nucleus of the very extensive New Zealand section that has always been a feature of the Library.

The value of the Library to the community was recognized from the beginning, and at the end of the first three months, the Librarian (Mr. Edward Shillington) was able to advise the Council that the attendance was then in the vicinity of three hundred a day.

At the same time it was freely admitted that the building was both unsuitable and inadequate for its purpose, and when, in 1882, Sir George Grey intimated his intention of presenting his library to the citizens the City Council decided to erect a building which would suitably house this collection and provide for the development of the Library on satisfactory lines.

Sir George Grey's gift was made in a most unusual and almost casual manner. The only document in connection with the presentation of the collection which I have been able to trace is a telegram, dated 19th August 1882, sent to Mr. J. Shera couched in the following terms:—

Dear Shera,—Auckland has now a university. I am anxious that the munificent gift thus made to the city should be supplemented by all useful accessories. I therefore wish on such an occasion to give effect to an intention I have long entertained by giving to the citizens of Auckland my library

if the Mayor and Corporation for the time being will act as trustees on the same simple trusts as the library I gave to Cape Town is held.

Will you speak to the Mayor on the subject and let me know how this idea can be best carried out. I will then write to him regarding it.—G. Grey.

That such a valuable gift should have been made in such an unorthodox manner is most remarkable, and that no further correspondence on Sir George's part took place is equally inexplicable. When the new building was ready to receive the gift the collection was sent along, and here it has remained ever since. A generous sequel to a most generous impulse.

In less than a year after the offer of Sir George Grey to present his collection to the citizens had been received a bequest of great monetary value was announced. This was the bequest of Edward Costley, one of Auckland's earliest settlers, who died on 18th April 1883, leaving a sum of £84,700 in equal shares to the Public Library, and six other institutions, namely the Auckland Institute and Museum, Hospital, Orphan Home, Home for the Aged Poor, Sailor's Home, and Boys' Institute. This is the largest monetary bequest received by the Library in its whole history.

The Council did not waste any time in putting into effect its decision to provide a new building. During the mayoralty of Mr. J. McCosh Clark it was decided to borrow money for certain works, and on his recommendation the sum of £20,000 was set aside for the purpose of defraying the cost of a building to contain the Library, Art Gallery, Municipal Offices, etc. By 1883 the site had been selected and the Council invited architects to prepare designs for such

a building, offering premiums of £200 and £100 respectively for the best designs submitted. The plans of Messrs. Grainger and D'Ebro, architects, of Melbourne, having been placed first by a committee comprising artists, architects and members of the City Council, the foundation stone was laid with much pomp and circumstance on 4th June 1885, by the Mayor (Mr. William Richard Waddel), before a great gathering of citizens, old and young. Inspiring addresses were delivered by Sir George Grey, Sir Frederick Whitaker, and by Sir G. Maurice O'Rorke, who had taken part in the inaugural exercises at the opening of the Library five years previously. The contract for erecting the building was let to Messrs. Malcolm and Price for £21,851. This amount did not provide for the clock and chimes, which were not installed until 1894, the cost of which was £650.

Good progress was made with the construction of the building, and on 26th March 1887 the official opening of the Library took place.

The opening of the Library was made the occasion of an interesting ceremony in which representative citizens took an active part, a Saturday afternoon having been chosen, so that everyone who desired could attend. The Mayor (Mr. A. E. T. Devore) presided over the large assembly, which filled the Art Gallery Hall where the addresses in celebration of the opening were made. The seat of honour was given to Sir George Grey whose speech was one of mingled wisdom and charm. Other addresses were delivered by the Mayor, Sir G. Maurice O'Rorke, and ex-Mayors Peacock, Clark and Waddel, all of

whom had given yeoman service in furthering the objects of the Library. Vocal selections were rendered by the Choral Society, with orchestral accompaniments. At the conclusion of the speeches the Mayor declared the building open, and in this way the Library entered upon a larger sphere of influence which has grown greater and greater with the passage of the years.

At the date of the opening of the new building, the stock of the Library was computed to be fifteen thousand volumes, the increase being mainly attributable to the acquisition of the Grey Collection, which numbered eight thousand volumes. From 1887 till 1898, the year of his death, Sir George continued to add to his collection, and in all he presented over fourteen thousand volumes, excluding the large collection of autograph letters amounting to nearly four thousand items. The last gift made personally by Sir George was the beautiful Edinburgh Edition of Robert Louis Stevenson's works. And here it might be interesting to give Stevenson's impression of New Zealand's greatest administrator. It was on his second visit to Auckland, in February 1893, that Stevenson met Grey, and in a letter to a friend he stated—"I have seen a good deal of Sir George Grey; what a wonderful old historic figure to be walking on your arm and recalling ancient events and instances!" Then in reference to the Samoan troubles he continued "It makes a man small, and yet the extent to which he approved what I had done—or rather have tried to do—encouraged me. Sir George is an expert at least, he knows these races; he is not a small employé with an inkpot and a Whitaker."

By his benefactions Sir George Grey enriched the Library with such treasures that it attained what is perhaps a unique position among municipal libraries in the British Empire, and, with one or two exceptions, such as the large American libraries, in the world. The manuscript section contains specimens of illumination of various schools, and of books written in Greek, Latin, Coptic, Arabic, Ethiopic and Persian; in Italian, French, German, Bohemian and English; and in the languages of the Polynesians, especially Maori, and of the Aborigines of Australia. Worthy of special mention are—*Lectionarum Graecum* (Lessons from the Gospels), a Greek ms. of the tenth or eleventh century, noteworthy on account of its being the oldest book in the Library; *Codex Evangelarium* (The Four Gospels), bearing the date 1128, also in Greek. The finest specimen of calligraphy contained in the collection, and perhaps the best example of handwriting in these parts, is *Biblia Sacra Latina Vulgata*, a Latin ms. of the fifteenth century. The finest illuminated manuscript in the Library is the *Missale Romanum*, another fifteenth century item. Alike for the perfect formation of the letters and capitals, the regularity of the lines, the quality and richness of the red and black inks, the colouring and design of the miniatures and capitals, and the brilliance of the gold, it certainly justifies its claim to priority.

Of original documents the Treaty signed by Richard Cromwell confirming the Treaty entered into between Oliver Cromwell and the Protestant Powers, and the Letters and Papers relating to Captain Cook and Sir Joseph Banks, formerly in the Bra-



*First row: William Leys, J. T. Mackenzie, T. W. Leys  
 Second row: Henry Shaw, Sir Geo. Grey, Fred Shaw  
 Third row: F. W. Reed, Moss Davis, Lewis Eady*





*Central Library: Reference Department*



*Central Library: Grey and Shaw Collections*



bourne Collection, are of historical importance and interest.

The collection of incunabula and early printed books contains some interesting and beautiful examples of the art of printing, conspicuous being three Caxtons, namely Higden's *Polychronicon*, c. 1483, *The Golden Legend*, c. 1484, and *The Boke of Enydos*, 1490, and two books printed by Richard Pynson—*The Canterbury Tales*, c. 1493, and *Nova Statua Anno I—XII Henrici VII*, 1497.

Besides incunabula the Grey Collection is rich in literary rarities, of which mention may be made of *The Faerie Queen*, of Spenser, 1590-96, two parts; the First, Second and Fourth Folios of Shakespeare, and Shakespeare's *Poems*, 1640.

Mention must also be made of the section dealing with the literature relating to New Zealand affairs. In extent it is one of the largest in existence numbering some thousands of items dealing with every aspect of the subject—historical, political, economic, social, literary, etc. The division devoted to the Maori language, both manuscript and printed, ranks among the two or three largest collections known. In making this section Sir Geo. Grey has conferred a boon on every serious student of New Zealand affairs. It may be appropriate to state here that a wish which Sir George gave expression to in his lifetime was realized after prolonged negotiations—that was that the Auckland and Cape Town libraries, which had both received gifts of collections from him, should exchange those items which would be mutually of greater value in the respective countries. In 1922-23 the exchange of the South African items in

the Auckland Library for the New Zealand books and mss. in the Library at Cape Town was effected with advantage to both institutions.

Space forbids of detailed reference to the many other literary, historical and bibliographical rarities contained in the collection, but those interested will find a full account of them in the late Henry Shaw's *Guide* to the Collection, copies of which are still in print. The very scarce Royal English binding, made for Henry V, covering Gregory's *Moralia in Job* deserves to be noted even in a brief summary. It is believed to be the oldest specimen of an English Royal binding in existence.

Other donors to the Library at this time were J. McCosh Clark, and James Tannock Mackelvie, whose gift of nearly five hundred volumes, mainly dealing with art and art crafts laid the foundation of the very creditable art section which the Library possesses to-day.

The arranging and cataloguing of the Library, including the Grey Collection, were undertaken soon after the opening of the new building, Prof. W. S. Aldis and later Mr. W. R. Cook being engaged upon this work in association with the Librarian and Sir Geo. Grey himself, for whose convenience a room was set aside. Their labours resulted in the printed Catalogue which appeared in 1888, supplements being issued at intervals.

Right from the commencement of its career the Library was fortunate in having associated with its management men of attainments who were able to give advice, particularly with regard to the selection of books to be added to the stock. Representatives

of the professions, the university, and other educational bodies, as well as editors of newspapers, and others gave willingly of their time and knowledge to further the development of the Library. There is no doubt whatever that the example and influence of Sir George Grey had not a little to do with this spirit of service, and "the Library spirit" which has always been a noticeable characteristic of Auckland is due, in a great measure, to him. The many gifts, which not only the Library and Art Gallery, but the city generally has received began with the Grey benefaction, and the inspiration behind the donations made by William and Thomson Leys, and Fred and Henry Shaw, to mention only a few names associated with Auckland's public libraries, may be traced back to this source.

It may be appropriate here to mention some of the more important benefactions which have been made to the Library. The Henry Shaw Collection takes pride of place after the Grey Collection, as far as book presentations are concerned. In May 1904 Mr. Shaw made his first donation to the Library, comprising a collection of over one hundred and fifty volumes. In 1913 he presented the remainder of his collection, making in all, up to that time, a gift of one thousand six hundred volumes. Following the example of Sir George Grey he continued his interest in the Library, without abatement, constantly adding items to his collection, until at his death, on 3rd May, 1928, the total had risen to two thousand three hundred volumes. His interest did not cease with presenting the books, for he worked assiduously both at the Library and in his home on

the collection, cataloguing the manuscripts and incunabula, mounting illustrations for the grangerized books, listing and preparing them for the binder. Describing the Henry Shaw Collection in general terms it may be said to resemble in character the Grey Collection, except that it does not include any items of outstanding importance relating to New Zealand. The manuscript section contains thirty-three items, including some splendid examples of Oriental illuminated work in which the Grey Collection is deficient. Incunabula is represented by fifty-seven volumes, of which Augustine's *De Civitate Dei*, 1467, printed by Johann Mentelin, of Strassburg, and the *Biblia Latina*, 1479, the production of Adolf Rusch, also of Strassburg, are notable, the former as being the earliest printed book in the Library, and the latter on account of its perfect workmanship. Sixteenth century printed books are also well represented. The remainder of the collection comprises works in general literature in best copies, many being large paper and limited editions. The section devoted to art and art crafts is worthy of special mention, as well as the grangerized books. Of the latter the *Edinburgh Folio Shakespeare*, which has over three thousand illustrations added to it, is the most important but by no means the only example of this form of book-making which Mr. Shaw has done.

The Fred Shaw Collection was presented by a brother of Henry Shaw. The first part of his gift came to the Library in 1913, and consisted of over nine hundred volumes. On his death in 1927, he left instructions that the Library was to have the right of



*Central Library: Upper Landing Before Reconstruction*



*Central Library: Upper Landing To-day*



*Central Library: Children's Room*



*Central Library: Music Section*



selecting any further items from his collection which it desired, and when advantage had been taken of this generous offer the number of volumes which he donated to the Library totalled over one thousand four hundred. At the same time the Library received some fifty volumes from his wife, then lately deceased. The Fred Shaw gift ranks in value and importance next to those of Sir George Grey and Henry Shaw. It is particularly strong in English drama, but the collection contains many other important works on other subjects, including over one hundred volumes of music and literature relating to music.

The spirit of giving is still active. In 1926 Mr. F. W. Reed, of Whangarei, completed an agreement with the Auckland City Council whereby he made the Corporation joint owners with him of his collection of books relating to Alexandre Dumas, the books to be retained by him until his death. At the time of making the agreement the collection numbered over seven hundred items, and it has been added to since to such good purpose that it now contains over one thousand items. This collection, which will be known as the Reed Dumas Collection, will add further distinction to the Auckland Public Library, as amongst the many items relating to the great French romantic writer contained in it there are original manuscripts and other rarities which are difficult to come by even in national collections. In the following year Mr. L. Alfred Eady, at the time a member of the Auckland City Council and of its Library Committee, offered on behalf of his father to present a collection of over six hundred volumes



of music and musical literature to form the basis of a Music Section to be named the Lewis Eady Music Section after the donor. Mr. L. Alfred Eady undertook to keep the collection up-to-date. The offer was gratefully accepted by the Council and the Section has been in operation for two years. Mr. Moss Davis, a former resident of Auckland who now resides permanently in London, is proving himself as good a friend to the Library as he has been to the Art Gallery and the Museum, and in recent years he has presented many items of considerable worth, including many original letters of notable persons, such as Nelson, Wellington, Napoleon, Burns, Tennyson and Dickens.

Apart from the donors mentioned above the Library has had a host of benefactors whose individual gifts, although small, reckoned singly, would make a formidable list if they were enumerated. The donations both large and small are a constant reminder of the esteem in which the Library is held by citizens, and it is fitting that appreciative reference should be made to all these friends of the Library on the present happy occasion. In this way the named and unnamed alike will know that their gifts have been welcome and are serving a useful public purpose.

It is now proposed to give a résumé of the work which has been carried out in the various departments and branches of the Library in order to show the progress which has been made in developing it to its present position.

When the Library was opened, in 1880, it was, compared with later times, a very small concern, and even when the present building was opened, seven

years later, there were only two departments, the Reference Department and the Newspaper Room. Now in addition to those sections there are the Lending Department, Children's Department, Music and Commercial sections, and a special room for the display of the book treasures of the Grey and Shaw collections. There is also the branch library system comprising seven separate establishments, the school libraries (over thirty in number), work with the blind, story-hours for the youngest children, and other activities of various kinds.

## Reference Department

Library practice in the late 'eighties was somewhat different from the more business-like methods of these times. Close classification on more or less scientific lines was not practised then as it is now, and cataloguing was done in an elementary fashion compared with the present day. It is all the more creditable to record that a Catalogue of the Library appeared in 1888, and was kept up-to-date for some years by supplements. A revised Catalogue of the City Council Collection was published in 1904, and later a sheaf catalogue was used. In 1909 Mr. Percy Wood who had had experience in English libraries was engaged to classify the Reference Department (Council Collection) on the Dewey system. In 1916 a Card Catalogue was introduced and has been maintained to the present, and is now undergoing a revision to bring it into line with the latest practice. The Grey Collection was re-classified on the Dewey system in 1913-14, and a start was made with the

preparation of a new author catalogue and a shelf catalogue; this work is still in progress.

The growth of the Reference collections from 1887-1911 had been steady and had increased in that time from fifteen thousand volumes to twice that number, and for some years accommodation had become a serious problem. Relief was obtained at this time with the removal of the Municipal Offices to the Town Hall, and, later, the transfer of the Elam School of Art, which also had occupied some rooms in the Library from 1890, gave the Library elbow-room, and a re-arrangement of the department took place, including the placing of the less used and less valuable part of the Grey Collection in the Gallery over the Reference Department. But so rapidly has the stock increased in the last two decades that it has become an insoluble problem with the present restricted quarters to properly accommodate the stock of fifty-five thousand volumes which the Library now contains.

From time to time, as opportunity has offered, improvements have been made in the Reference Department. Electric light was introduced throughout the building in 1912. In 1913-14 extra tables were provided to meet the increasing demands of readers; an Inquiry Desk was instituted which has filled a very useful purpose ever since; a fire-proof room was erected for the safekeeping and display of the treasures of the Grey and Henry Shaw collections; and a series of exhibitions of the bibliographical treasures contained in the Library was inaugurated. In 1917 the entrance and staircase of the Library were reconstructed in concrete finished with white

marble and greenstone panels on the dado, slate and white marble squares on the floors, and white marble steps; and in 1927 a hot water heating system warmed with an Oil-o-matic burner was installed and has proved a success.

## Newspaper Room

The Newspaper Room which has always been the most popular department of the Library has an unbroken record of useful service. At one time it was possible to allow such games as chess and draughts to be played in the room, but owing to the increasing use which was being made of the department for reading purposes the games tables had to be removed permanently in 1913.

As in the Reference Department improvements have been made in the Newspaper Room at various times; but as elsewhere in the Library it is now too small to meet the demands which are made upon it.

## Lending Department

Initiatory steps towards the formation of a Lending Department were taken in 1887, and the Library Committee undertook the preparation of a list of nearly three thousand volumes, from which it proposed to select the foundation stock of the Department. The Committee then invited Dr. Richard Laishley to associate with himself a small committee to revise this list and to recommend to it two thousand volumes for purchase. Dr. Laishley accepted the invitation, and, with the help of Dr. McArthur, Mr. Wm. Berry, editor of the *New Zealand Her-*

*ald*, and Mr. T. W. Leys, editor of the *Auckland Star*, carried out the Committee's request, and in the following year the books were ordered. On 1st October 1889 the Lending Department was opened with a stock of two thousand six hundred and forty-eight volumes, a small subscription being charged for the privilege of borrowing the books, and this system of levying a charge has continued ever since. A catalogue was issued in 1889, and a revised edition appeared in 1895. A supplementary catalogue was prepared in 1904, but this was the last catalogue to be printed, additions being listed in a card index. Open access, or the system whereby borrowers are allowed direct access to the books, was introduced at the end of 1899. The system had been in force in the Reference Department from the commencement.

The Lending Department was originally located in a room on the ground floor. In 1890, owing to retrenchments becoming necessary, the services of the Assistant Librarian were dispensed with and the Department was moved upstairs to the Librarian's Room, adjoining the Reference Department. It remained here, very much cramped for want of space, until 1899, when it was moved again to the ground floor, to the more northerly of the two rooms which it now occupies. The second room was secured in 1912 subsequent to the transference of the Municipal Offices to the Town Hall.

About a year after the enlargement of the Lending Department a thorough reorganization of the Department was taken in hand. This included the re-accessioning of the whole stock, its re-classification on the Dewey system, and the preparation of a

complete dictionary catalogue on type-written cards. This work was carried on simultaneously with the old system and was not completed until 1918. From time to time additional bookcases have been added until the entire available accommodation is now occupied and no further additions are possible. Early in the present year a new charging desk was installed and an up-to-date system of issuing the books has just been introduced.

The growth in popularity of this department can be estimated by a comparison of the issues. In 1890-91 subscribers borrowed 15,079 volumes; last year 142,239 volumes were issued.

In 1913 a proposal was submitted to abolish the subscription and to make the Lending Department free. The proposal was deferred, and for various reasons largely of an economic character has not been revived.

## Work With Children

The first reference to library work with children is contained in the Librarian's Report for 1893 where it is stated that "a step has been taken to extend the privileges of the Lending Department to juveniles . . . by adding a supply of suitable literature of a class most likely to attract them." The idea does not appear to have been developed at this time, for there is no further reference to the subject until 1908, when it is recorded that a supply of books to the number of 709 volumes had been added to the Lending Department. During the first eight months of the section's existence 1,272 volumes were issued, but in the four following years the issues dropped to

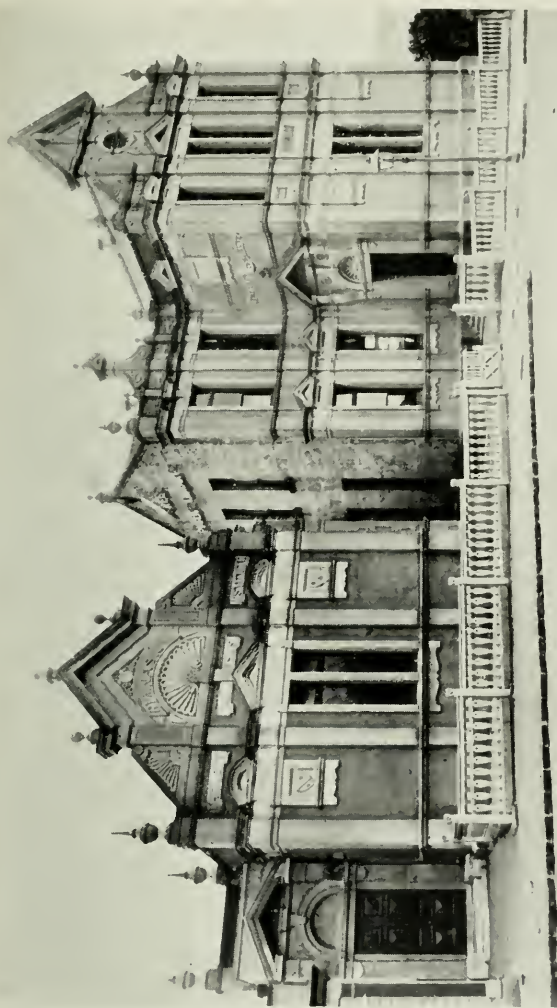


1,223, 780, 331, and 308 respectively. It would seem that little interest was taken in the section, for in one year an analysis of the additions made to the stock showed that only two volumes had been added to the juvenile collection.

To the Leys Institute belongs the credit of inaugurating the first separate department to be devoted to library work with children. That was in 1909 when a Boys' Recreation and Reading Room was instituted. Remuera Library was the next one to provide facilities for boys and girls when that Library was opened in 1915, a separate room being provided for children. Epsom followed with similar provision in 1918 (27th August). The Children's Department at the Central Library came two months later, the opportunity to provide this facility coming when a new fire-proof room had been made to contain the rare volumes belonging to the Grey and Shaw collections. The old room was then converted into a Reading Room and Lending Department for boys and girls. As each new branch library has been completed suitable provision has been made for young people, and all the libraries now have special sections for young people.

Not satisfied with providing reading facilities for boys and girls at the various libraries which had been opened up to that time the Library Committee decided, in 1917, to introduce the system of Public Library and Public School co-operation, on the same lines as Wellington had done. The scheme consists of supplying, through and at the expense of the Library, a series of class-room libraries suitable to the ages of the children, the number of volumes





*The Leys Institute, Ponsonby*



LIBRARY COMMITTEE, 1929-31

|                            |                          |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cr. A. H. Basten           | Mr. Geo. Baildon (Mayor) | Prof. H. W. Segar        |
| Cr. B. L. Bagnall          | Cr. H. P. Burton         | Absent, Cr. J. R. Landon |
| Cr. E. Melville (Chairman) |                          |                          |
| Mr. J. Kenderdine          |                          |                          |



*Staff of the Auckland Public Libraries*



Parnell



Grey Lynn



BRANCH LIBRARIES  
Grafton



Epsom

supplied being based on the number of pupils in a class. All the classes from standard three to six are catered for, the teachers in the school acting as librarians. The books are selected by the Children's Librarian who has charge of this work, and she makes her choice of books in co-operation with the teachers. The first school to be equipped with a collection of books was Parnell, in April 1917, and since that date other schools have been embraced by the scheme, and last year it was in operation in thirty-one schools through which eighty-nine thousand nine hundred and five volumes were issued to pupils. Altogether there were circulated to children, in 1929-30, through the various agencies—schools and libraries—in the city 125,450 volumes, compared with the very modest total of 1,223 volumes in 1909.

The Story-Hour for very young children was commenced at the Central Library in 1921, and was continued for two years, but with the shrinkage of residential population adjacent to this library the patronage declined and the function was discontinued. When the Remuera Library was opened in its new building in 1926 the Story-Hour was instituted and has proved a popular feature. It is intended to carry on this work at other libraries during the present year.

### Commercial Section

A Commercial section containing books of a quick-reference character required by business men was installed in the Reference Department in 1920; it has proved itself of value, and during the ten years it has been in operation the average annual use made

of it has approximated twelve thousand volumes. But as elsewhere there is no room to enlarge the section, with the consequence that it must mark time until the space needed is found.

## Music Section

This section, which is known as the Lewis Eady Music Section after the gentleman who was responsible for presenting the initial stock, was opened on 13th June, 1928. It is located in a small room over the outer vestibule and provides tables and chairs for those who desire to consult the books in the room. With a few exceptions all the books may be borrowed for use in the home, studio, concert room or theatre. When the section was opened just over two years ago the stock totalled 1,181 volumes. It now contains 1,700 volumes. Up to the end of July 1930 the number of volumes borrowed amounted to 9,581 and in addition 9,557 volumes were consulted in the room. The latter number does not take account of the use made of the current periodicals dealing with music.

The Music Section is an illustration of what specialization can do, and if the section of the Library containing the books, manuscripts, newspapers and maps relating to New Zealand could be provided with a similar room—it would require to be a large one—the use which would be made of it would be enormous, and the students of New Zealand affairs, historical, social, political, economic and commercial, would be helped in their studies to their advantage, and to the advantage of the community generally.



From this outline of the growth of the Auckland Public Library it will be readily acknowledged that the City has never been behind the times in catering for the literary requirements of the citizens, even if it has to be admitted that during the last decade the work has been carried on under difficulties brought about by lack of room for expansion. Furthermore it can be asserted that the City's activities have not been confined to the Central Library. As the City's boundaries have extended with the amalgamation of adjacent local bodies district libraries have been opened in these areas.

### Leys Institute

The first library of this class to be inaugurated was the Leys Institute, which, while forming part of the City's library system, is managed by a separate committee, consisting of nine members, of whom two are trustees of the late William Leys, three are elected by members of the Institute, and four are nominated by the City Council.

The Institute was founded under the will of the late William Leys, a man of noble ideas and generous instincts, who died on 5th October, 1899. The funds available at the time of his death being inadequate for the early realization of the testator's benevolent purpose, Mr. T. W. Leys, a brother of the deceased, and one of the trustees, offered to defray one-half of the entire cost of erecting and equipping a building and to furnish it with a library, on condition that the Corporation provided a suitable site. This proviso was readily agreed to by the City Council, and on 29th March, 1905, the Leys Insti-

tute was officially opened by the Mayor (Mr.—now Sir—E. Mitchelson). The building and equipment, exclusive of books, cost £3,234. A year later the gymnasium was erected at a cost of £1,525, exclusive of equipment. The architect for both buildings was Mr. R. M. Watt, and the contractors were respectively Messrs. W. Jones and Son and Messrs. James Lye and Sons. In 1908 a new Lending Department building was added, the gift of Mr. T. W. Leys. A further extension to this department was made, in 1922, at a cost of about £1,200. The gymnasium was subsequently converted into a Boys' Reading and Recreation Room and Gymnasium. The total expenditure on buildings and equipment has been about £8000. Of the thirty-one thousand four hundred and seventy volumes in the Library, two-thirds were presented by the late Dr. Leys. The total expenditure on the Institute and its maintenance is estimated at £20,000. The endowment created by the late William Leys, which is now subject to the rights of certain beneficiaries under his will, is valued at £30,000. The Leys Institute has been a most important factor in the community life of Ponsonby, the district which it serves. With the library as its basic service the Institute has had connected with it various associations such as literary, dramatic, musical and debating clubs; games, sports and gymnastic organizations, and other agencies for the mental and physical development and enjoyment of the people, young and old, of the district. The winter courses of lectures and entertainments were a feature of the Institute's community work for over twenty years. The late T. W. Leys, LL.D., was the Institute's

first president, a position he held for nearly twenty years, and the success which the Institute has attained has been due in a very large measure to his interest and benefactions. Every activity connected with the Institute had his support and sympathy, but the work with the boys made the greatest appeal to him. Mr. W. Cecil Leys succeeded his father as president.

### Branch Libraries

The Grafton Library was the first branch to be instituted directly by the City Council. It was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor, Lord Liverpool, on 19th March, 1913, and in its time it has rendered excellent service. The building was designed by Messrs. Edward Bartley and Son, and erected by Mr. A. J. Holmes at a cost of £3,037. Although less than eighteen years old the Library is suffering from lack of space in which to grow, and consideration is now being given to the question of its extension.

Parnell Branch was opened in the same year, on 13th December, by the Mayor (Mr.—now Sir—James Parr). The Borough of Parnell had only joined the City on 15th February, 1913, so that no time was lost in affording the new residents of the city library opportunities. The former Parnell Borough Council Offices, which were located in Manukau Road, almost opposite the present building, were converted into a Library consisting of a Reading Room and Lending Department, and so quickly did the library establish itself in popularity that it was suggested that larger and more suitable quarters were necessary. The outbreak of the European War

caused a delay in putting this intention into practice, and it was not until 1924 that the new library was erected. In 1918 the building was removed from the west side of Manukau Road to the site at the junction of Manukau Road and St. George's Bay Road, and later in the year an addition was made to the building. The Parnell Borough had already secured a site at the corner of Manukau Road and Russell Street for a Library when it joined the City, but when the Library Committee agreed to erect the new building it decided that this site was not suitably located for the purpose. The site to which the Library had been moved, belonging to the Diocesan Trust Board, was favoured, and a transfer of the land was effected, the old library site was sold and the proceeds devoted to defraying the cost of the new one. Mr. M. K. Draffin was invited to design the building in consultation with the Chief Librarian, and from the plans Mr. F. J. Fawcett erected it. The cost of the land was £750, and of the building £8,716, of which £8000 came from a loan. The new Library was opened by the Mayor (Sir James Gunson) on 30th July, 1924.

The story of Remuera Branch is substantially that of Parnell. Remuera Road Board amalgamated with the City in March 1915, and on 2nd October of the same year the Road Board Offices were re-opened as a Library, the converted building being opened by the Mayor, Mr. J. H. Gunson. So popular was the Library that an addition had to be made to the building in September 1918, but even this proved insufficient. After putting up with serious congestion for a number of years relief was secured, in 1926,

when a new building was opened on 31st July by Councillor Ellen Melville, Chairman of the Library Committee, Mr. Geo. Baildon, Mayor, presiding at the opening ceremony. The delay in erecting the building benefitted the Library in the long run, for by waiting it obtained one of the best sites in the district situated at the corner of Remuera Road and Vincent Avenue, which was purchased for £4,729 by the City Council from part of the money received from the sale of its electrical undertaking to the Auckland Electric Power Board. A worthy site demanded a worthy building, a fact which the citizens realized for they authorized a loan of £12,000 for the purpose, of which £11,609 has been expended on what is claimed to be the finest library building of its size in New Zealand. Messrs. Gummer and Ford were invited to prepare the plans in consultation with the Chief Librarian, and a successful experiment was made in the internal arrangement by eliminating dividing walls and glazed partitions between the departments of the Library. Messrs. Philcox and Sons were the contractors. It is worthy of record that the architects of this building were, in 1928, awarded the medal of the New Zealand Institute of Architects, the award being made for their design of the Library. The medal is a signal distinction greatly prized by local architects, as the award is made by a committee of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Epsom Branch was another case of converting former Road Board Offices into a Library. The amalgamation of this district was completed on 1st February, 1918, and on 27th August of the same

year Mayor Gunson declared the Library open. Like its forerunners it proved an immediate success, with the result that the building was enlarged, in 1924, by extending its front nearer to the street building line. This extension only afforded temporary relief, and at the time of writing an enlargement of the Library at the expense of the Lecture Hall is practically completed. This extension brings this Library in point of size into line with the larger of the newer branches and makes provision for its growth for at least a couple of decades. The building, which stands on leasehold property, was purchased, along with the adjoining residence, for £2000, taken from Library income.

Grey Lynn Branch was opened on 13th December 1924 by Sir James Gunson. Like Grafton Library it was fortunate in beginning its activities in a building designed for the purpose. Grey Lynn joined the City on 1st July 1914, but owing to the terms of amalgamation it could not be rated for library purposes until 1921. This caused a delay in providing the district with a library. Part of the land on which the Library is built was purchased at a cost of £1,300; the remainder being City property. The building was designed by Mr. W. H. Gummer in consultation with the Chief Librarian, and was erected by Mr. H. C. Nicholls. It cost £8,534, of which £8,000 was secured from loan authorization.

Point Chevalier Branch was inaugurated soon after the opening of the new Remuera Library, the old wooden building, which had served that district prior to the erection of the new building, being taken down and re-erected on the reserve at the junction



of Great North Road and Point Chevalier Road to continue its service as a library in new surroundings. It was opened on 20th November 1926 by Councillor Ellen Melville, Chairman of the Library Committee, in the presence of the Mayor, Councillors and citizens. The site is City property and the cost of removing and re-conditioning the building was £654. Although looked upon as a temporary building it has so far been adequate to its purpose, and has done good work.

Each of the branch libraries consists of a reading room, lending department for adults, and children's section, and, with the exception of Pt. Chevalier, all are equipped with lecture halls and committee rooms for community use.

Facts speak for themselves and the foregoing statement is an eloquent reminder of what Auckland has done for its citizens in providing them with library facilities. No other city or town in either Australia or New Zealand has a library system comparable with it, and even were the comparison extended to other countries Auckland need not fear the result.

In all of the new buildings which the Council has erected for library purposes it has shown a liberal spirit. Large and suitable locations were chosen for the buildings and qualified architects were entrusted with their design, and the accompanying illustrations of both exteriors and interiors will show that the results are creditable to all concerned. A feature of the lay out of the buildings is the provision made for lawns in the approaches. The care of these is entrusted to the Parks Department.

The work of the libraries has not been limited to providing facilities for reading. By means of the halls and committee rooms, which are let for very moderate fees, the libraries have become in a sense community centres, and this aspect of the work has a considerable future. In 1914 winter courses of lectures and entertainments were inaugurated, and as each new library was opened, similar courses were organized. Unfortunately the courses had to be abandoned in 1927 for want of sufficient support. Mention has been made of the Story-Hour meetings and the proposals for their extension, and in this and other directions the libraries are fulfilling a useful function.

### Some Comparisons

A jubilee celebration is surely a fitting occasion on which to take stock of work accomplished, and that is what has been attempted in the foregoing pages. It is also a suitable opportunity to compare the work that is being done with what has been done—not in a spirit of malice but to assess results. Unfortunately records which are now kept with care did not exist in the early days, but as far as comparisons are possible they will be made.

When the Library was opened in 1880 the stock numbered about six thousand volumes. At that time there was only one book Department—the Reference Department. At 31st March 1930 there were in all the departments of the various libraries 156,914 volumes, allocated as follows: Reference Departments 72,534, Lending Departments 66,873, Music Section 1,562, Children's Sections 15,945 volumes.

No records were kept of the attendances at the Library in the early days so that the statement of the number of visitors to the various departments of the eight Auckland Public Libraries (excluding the Lending Departments) during the twelve months ending 31st March last amounting to 577,938 persons must stand by itself.

For the same reason it is impossible to compare the number of volumes consulted in the Reference Department at the commencement of the Library's operations with the use made of them to-day, so again all that can be done is to give the last year's figures for the Central Library and the Leys Institute which amounted to 131,935 volumes, and leave the rest to the imagination. No record is kept of the use made of the Reference books kept in the reading rooms of the branch libraries, although this is known to be quite considerable.

For comparative purposes it may be interesting to show how the Reference Department of the Central Library at the present time compares with the year 1914-15, the first period in which a complete record was kept of the books consulted. In that year 80,653 volumes were used by visitors. Last year the number was 112,933 volumes. In the sixteen and a-half years that a record has been made of the books used in this department it is shown that 1,578,882 volumes have been consulted, and the curious or the philosophic minded person has in this fact enough material to give him thought for a lifetime.

The Lending Department provides a definite opportunity for comparison. In 1890-91, the first full

year's activity of the one lending department at that time, the number of books issued totalled 15,073 volumes. In 1929-30 from the various lending agencies of the libraries 592,342 volumes were put into circulation—or nearly forty times the earlier total.

Since the inception of the various Lending Departments, commencing with the Central Library 6,710,600 volumes have been issued up to 31st March last. The following table gives details.

### LENDING DEPARTMENT ISSUES

1st Oct. 1889—31st March 1930

| Library.           | Date of<br>Establishment. | Volumes<br>issued. |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Central            | 1889                      | 2,639,105          |
| Leys Institute     | 1905                      | 850,000            |
| Grafton            | 1913                      | 635,927            |
| Parnell            | 1913                      | 529,085            |
| Remuera            | 1915                      | 708,078            |
| School (Libraries) | 1917                      | 665,135            |
| Epsom              | 1918                      | 497,959            |
| Grey Lynn          | 1924                      | 148,520            |
| Pt. Chevalier      | 1926                      | 36,791             |
| Grand Total        |                           | <u>6,710,600</u>   |

Not much has been written in the course of this sketch of the personal side of the Library's administration, but it will be admitted without reserve that the success of an institution depends to some extent upon its officers. It is fitting therefore that acknowledgment should be given to the men and women who have served the Library during its career. Individual reference is of course neither desirable nor warranted, but exception should be permitted in the

case of the first Librarian, the late Edward Shillington. Appointed Librarian at the inception of the Library he held his position for thirty-three years, and in that time he saw the Library grow from a small collection of no great importance into one with many distinguished features. Mr. Shillington was trained in the army and he brought to his task of library administrator certain military characteristics such as discipline and orderliness. He may be said to have guarded the Library with jealous care, and his annual reports were filled with regrets at even the smallest losses. His zeal seems to have caused him no little concern and even brought him personal harm, for in one of his Annual Reports he states—"In the early part of the present year (1884) two persons were convicted at the Police Court for theft from the Library, and one person for assault on the Librarian." He retired in 1913, and was associated with the late Henry Shaw for about a year as Curator of the Grey Collection. He died in Auckland on 28th July, 1920, in his 86th year. Mr. Shillington was succeeded in the Chiefship of the Library by the writer.

### Historic and Other Occasions

Up to the opening of the Town Hall at the end of 1911 there were few suitable places in the City where distinguished visitors could be received, the Library building being one of them, and in consequence it was frequently used for such purposes, one of the earliest being a reception to the Earl of Aberdeen when an address was presented to him by the citizens in 1887. The most historic occasion connect-

ed with the Library and Art Gallery building was associated with the present King and Queen, when as Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York they visited the Dominion. A reception was held on 12th June 1901 in the Library and Art Gallery building which "with a few alterations was found to be peculiarly adapted for the purpose, and their Royal Highnesses expressed their pleasure in viewing the works of art, rare books and many curios brought under their notice." (Town Clerk's Report, 1902.)

Of peculiarly Library interest are the two meetings of the Libraries Association of New Zealand which were held respectively in April 1911 and in March of the present year. The late T. W. Leys presided over the former meeting and Councillor Ellen Melville, Chairman of the Library Committee, at the latter. This meeting may be said to have been a very fitting occasion to have taken place in Auckland, as it will always be associated with Auckland's Library Jubilee.

### Conclusion

The record of fifty years' growth and work which has been outlined in these pages is one that every citizen interested in the intellectual welfare of the City should be proud of. Inspired by the great gift and influence of one of Britain's greatest colonial administrators the Auckland Public Library has been able to perform a great work for the community—a service which has been acknowledged time and again by thousands of men and women who have been advantaged mentally and materially by the help which the Library has been able to afford





*Pt. Chevalier Branch (formerly Remuera Branch)*



*Remuera Branch*



*Reading Room, Grey Lynn Branch*



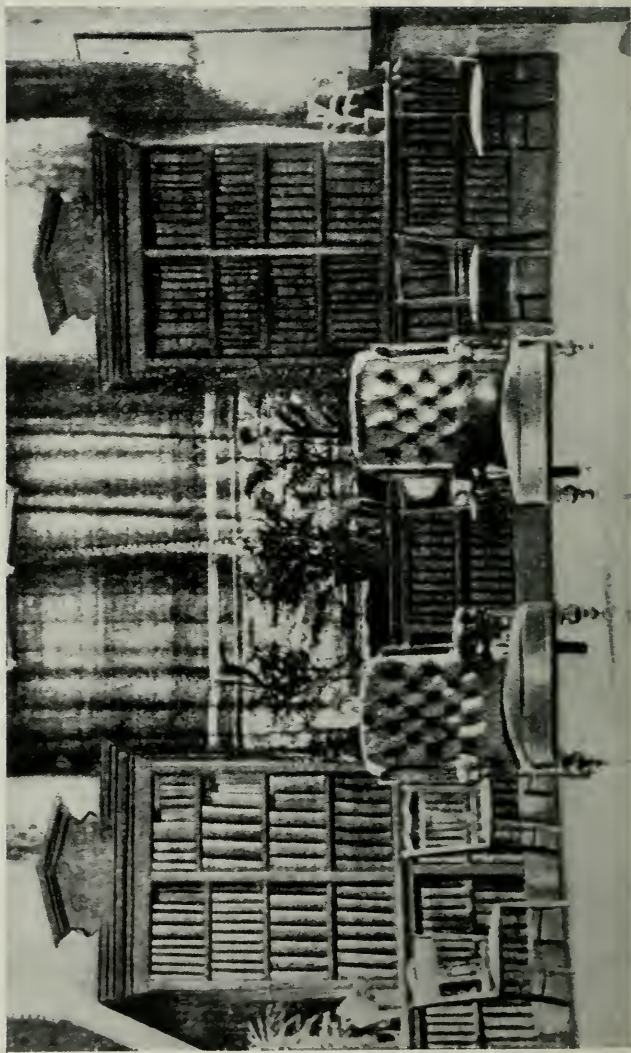
*Boys and Girls Room, Parnell Branch*



*Lending Department, Remuera Branch*



*Lecture Hall, Parnell Branch*



*Reference Department Arranged for the Reception of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, 1901*

them. The record of development not only in the main library but in the branch libraries is worthy of the City, and of the citizens who have seen that the support which the Library required to further its work was given to it. And here it may be of interest to remark that the cost of maintaining the libraries has never been an excessive charge on the ratepayers. Apart from loans raised for defraying the cost of building the Central Library and four of the branch libraries the cost of maintenance has never exceeded a rate of a penny in the pound on the annual rateable value, and prior to 1914 a half-penny rate sufficed. The interest from the Costley Bequest, and the ground rent received from the leasing of the site of the old Mechanics Institute have been excellent endowments which have helped the Library in the performance of its long and useful community service. Now in the jubilee year there is one paramount need—room for the Central Library to expand. For years the writer has pointed out this need, and he has indicated the solution of the problem, namely the erection of a new building for the Art Gallery which is in the same plight as the Library and the Old Colonists' Museum. The problem of all these departments is inadequate accommodation. If a new Art Gallery building were provided, the Library and the Old Colonists' Museum could extend into the vacated rooms, and with this accommodation the Central Library could continue to serve the public as efficiently—and more efficiently—than it has done in the past, for in recent years the congested conditions have tended to nullify its efforts. Libraries have passed the stage of criticism;

they are now acknowledged on every hand as one of the great necessities of modern life. In Great Britain, with all its economic difficulties, libraries are better supported to-day than ever before. The Library Rate of a penny in the pound for maintenance has been abolished, and cities such as Manchester, Bolton, and Sheffield are finding large sums of money to build larger and better buildings for their main libraries. With Auckland's library tradition and achievement surely it can be hoped that the jubilee year of its Library will not be allowed to pass without definite provision being made to carry on the work of its main library as it should be.



A.—STOCK

| Department            | Central | Leys Inst. | Epsom | Grafton | Grey Lynn | Parnell | Pt. Chev. | Remuera | Schools | TOTAL   |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|-------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| Reference Dept. ....  | 54,968  | 16,139     | 146   | 359     | 294       | 198     | 134       | 296     | —       | 72,534  |
| Lending Dept. ....    | 19,339  | 15,331     | 4,976 | 6,857   | 4,275     | 6,452   | 2,397     | 7,246   | —       | 66,873  |
| Music Section ....    | 1,562   | —          | —     | —       | —         | —       | —         | —       | —       | 1,562   |
| Children's Dept. .... | 2,410   | 2,196      | 1,195 | *       | 855       | *       | 389       | 1,551   | 7,349   | 15,945  |
| GRAND TOTAL           | 78,279  | 33,666     | 6,317 | 7,216   | 5,424     | 6,650   | 2,920     | 9,093   | 7,349   | 156,914 |

\* Children's stock is included in Lending Department figures.

B.—ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS  
EXCLUDING LENDING DEPARTMENTS

| Department                | Central | Leys Inst. | Epsom  | Grafton | Grey Lynn | Parnell | Pt. Chev. | Remuera | TOTAL   |
|---------------------------|---------|------------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Reference or Reading Room | 160,228 | 57,936     | 12,579 | 32,163  | 7,086     | 18,900  | 7,848     | 13,022  | 309,762 |
| Newspaper Room            | 211,291 | —          | —      | —       | —         | —       | —         | —       | 211,291 |
| Children's Dept.          | 8,463   | —          | 10,248 | —       | 7,236     | 10,928  | 5,927     | 8,963   | 51,765  |
| Music Section             | 5,120   | —          | —      | —       | —         | —       | —         | —       | 5,120   |
| GRAND TOTAL               | 385,102 | 57,936     | 22,827 | 32,163  | 14,322    | 29,828  | 13,775    | 21,985  | 577,938 |

# C.—Return of Volumes Consulted and Issued from April 1st 1929 to March 31st 1930

## REFERENCE DEPARTMENT\*

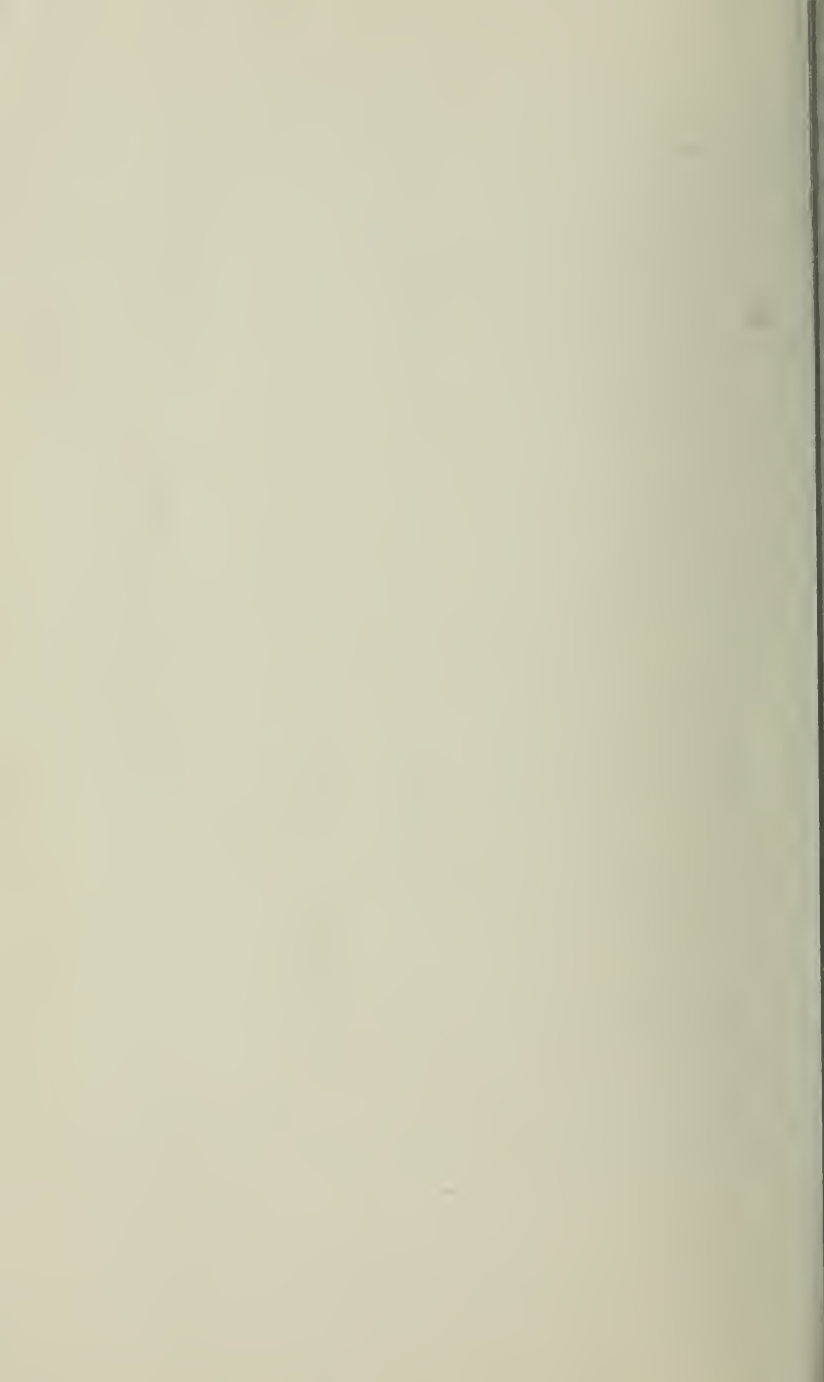
| Name of Library | General Works | Philosophy, | Religion | Sociology | Language, | Literature | Science | Useful Arts | Fine Arts | History, Biography, Travel | Fiction | Juvenile | Music | Commercial | TOTAL   | Dy. Aver. |      |           |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------|-------------|-----------|----------------------------|---------|----------|-------|------------|---------|-----------|------|-----------|
|                 |               |             |          |           |           |            |         |             |           |                            |         |          |       |            |         | 1929      | 1928 | 1930 1929 |
| Central .....   | 5,311         | 11,100      | 10,398   | 13,632    | 6,852     | 17,048     | 8,439   | 21,863      | 3,132     | —                          | —       | —        | 8,775 | 106,550    | 295     | 304       | —    | —         |
| Leys .....      | 1,557         | 2,289       | 1,320    | 2,079     | 1,370     | 2,008      | 1,735   | 6,565       | 79        | —                          | —       | —        | 6,383 | —          | 21      | —         | —    | —         |
| Total .....     | 6,868         | 13,389      | 11,718   | 15,711    | 8,222     | 19,056     | 10,174  | 28,428      | 3,211     | —                          | —       | —        | 6,383 | 8,775      | 131,935 | 378       | 366  | 366       |

\*No record is kept of the use made of the books placed in the Reading Rooms of the Branch Libraries.

## LENDING DEPARTMENT

|                                   |         |        |        |        |       |        |        |        |         |         |        |       |         |       |       |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| Central .....                     | 20,319  | 1,404  | 1,539  | 4,385  | 795   | 1,014  | 1,216  | 11,629 | 86,750  | 8,815   | 4,373  | —     | 142,239 | 469   | 483   |
| Leys .....                        | 16,665  | 222    | 507    | 485    | 113   | 248    | 181    | 3,184  | 55,313  | 6,415   | —      | —     | 83,333  | 272   | 260   |
| Epsom .....                       | 11,187  | 200    | 89     | 599    | 91    | 197    | 216    | 2,234  | 32,822  | 4,501   | —      | —     | 52,136  | 172   | 168   |
| Grafton .....                     | 6,511   | 109    | 123    | 542    | 50    | 119    | 173    | 2,533  | 42,026  | 1,938   | —      | —     | 54,124  | 179   | 183   |
| Grey Lynn .....                   | 6,390   | 71     | 60     | 108    | 16    | 71     | 27     | 622    | 19,965  | 2,824   | —      | —     | 30,154  | 100   | 104   |
| Parnell .....                     | 9,885   | 176    | 126    | 438    | 49    | 92     | 141    | 2,430  | 33,367  | 2,578   | —      | —     | 49,282  | 163   | 163   |
| Pt. Chev. ....                    | 4,277   | 23     | 15     | 43     | 15    | 10     | 4      | 336    | 9,853   | 466     | —      | —     | 15,042  | 48    | 35    |
| Remuera .....                     | 12,705  | 205    | 218    | 627    | 118   | 144    | 302    | 3,271  | 50,529  | 8,008   | —      | —     | 76,127  | 251   | 257   |
| Schools .....                     | —       | —      | —      | —      | —     | —      | —      | —      | —       | 89,905  | —      | —     | 89,905  | —     | —     |
| TOTAL .....                       | 187,939 | 2,410  | 2,677  | 7,227  | 1,247 | 1,895  | 2,260  | 26,239 | 330,625 | 125,450 | 4,373  | —     | 592,342 | 1,654 | 1,653 |
| TOTAL of Ref. & Lend. Depts. .... | 94,807  | 15,799 | 14,395 | 22,938 | 9,469 | 20,951 | 12,434 | 54,667 | 333,836 | 125,450 | 10,756 | 8,775 | 724,277 | 2,032 | 2,019 |

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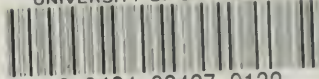




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